

1. A Fibre Channel network comprising:

a server;

a first edge switch connected directly to said server;

a first core switch connected to said first edge switch;

5 a second edge switch connected directly to said server;

a second core switch connected to said second edge switch; and

a storage subsystem connected directly to said first and second core switches;

10 whereby a first fabric is formed by said server, said first edge switch, said first core switch and said storage subsystem, and a second, discrete fabric is formed by said server, said second edge switch, said second core switch and said storage subsystem, whereby said server switches between said first and said second fabrics to provide redundancy.

2. The Fibre Channel network of claim 1 further comprising a second server connected to said first and second edge switches; whereby a third, discrete fabric is formed by said second server, said first edge switch, said first core switch and said storage subsystem, and a fourth, discrete fabric is formed by said second server, said second edge switch, said second core switch and said storage subsystem.

3. The Fibre Channel network of claim 2 wherein said third fabric includes inter-switch links (ISL's) interconnecting said first edge switch and said first core switch.

4. The Fibre Channel network of claim 2 wherein said fourth fabric includes inter-switch links (ISL's) interconnecting said second edge switch and said second core switch.

5. The Fibre Channel network of claim 2 wherein said server is an application server.

6. The Fibre Channel network of claim 1 further comprising an inter-switch link (ISL) interconnecting said first edge switch to said first core switch.

7. The Fibre Channel network of claim 1 further comprising an inter-switch link (ISL) interconnecting said second edge switch to said second core switch.

8. The Fibre Channel network of claim 1 wherein said server is an application server.

9. The Fibre Channel network of claim 1 further comprising a second storage subsystem connected to said first core switch and said second core switch, whereby said second storage subsystem communicates with said server through said first and said second fabrics.

10. The Fibre Channel network of claim 9 further comprising first and second cables interconnecting said second storage subsystem to said first core switch and said second core switch, respectively.

11. A Fibre Channel network comprising:

an application server;

a first edge switch connected directly to said application server;

a first core switch connected to said first edge switch by an ISL;

5 a second edge switch connected directly to said server by an ISL;

a second core switch connected to said second edge switch by an ISL; and

a storage subsystem connected directly to said first and second core switches;

10 whereby a first fabric is formed by said application server, said first edge switch, said first core switch and said storage subsystem server, and a second, discrete fabric is formed by said application server, said second edge switch, said second core switch and said storage subsystem, whereby said application server switches between said first and said second fabrics to provide redundancy.

12. The Fibre Channel network of claim 11 further comprising a second storage subsystem connected to said first core switch and said second core switch, whereby said second storage server communicates with said server through said first and said second fabrics.

13. The Fibre Channel network of claim 12 further comprising first and second cables interconnecting said second storage server and said first and said second core switches, respectively.

14. A Fibre Channel network comprising:

first and second application servers;

a first edge switch connected directly to said first and second application servers;

a first core switch connected to said first edge switch by an ISL;

5 a second edge switch connected directly to said first and second application servers;

a second core switch connected to said second edge switch by an ISL; and

a storage subsystem server connected directly to said first and second core switches;

whereby a first, discrete fabric is formed by said application server, said first edge switch, said first core switch and said storage subsystem, a second, discrete fabric is formed by said

10 application server, said second edge switch, said second core switch and said storage subsystem,

a third, discrete fabric is formed by said second application server, said first edge switch, said first core switch and said storage subsystem, and a fourth, discrete fabric is formed by said

second application server, said second edge switch, said second core switch and said storage subsystem, whereby said first application server switches between said first and second fabrics,

15 and said second application server switches between said third and fourth fabrics to provide redundancy.

15. A Fibre Channel network comprising:

first and second application servers;

a first edge switch connected directly to said first and second application servers;

a first core switch connected to said first edge switch by an ISL;

5 a second edge switch connected directly to said first and second application servers;

a second core switch connected to said second edge switch by an ISL; and

first and second storage subsystems connected directly to said first and second core switches;

whereby a first fabric is formed by said application server, said first edge switch, said  
10 first core switch and said first and said second storage subsystems, a second, discrete fabric is  
formed by said application server, said second edge switch, said second core switch and said first  
and said second storage subsystems, a third, discrete fabric is formed by said second application  
server, said first edge switch, said first core switch and said first and said second storage  
subsystems, and a fourth, discrete fabric is formed by said second application server, said second  
15 edge switch, said second core switch and said first and said second storage subsystems, whereby  
said first application server switches between said first and second fabrics and said second  
application server switches between said third and fourth fabrics to provide redundancy.